

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination, and further and favorable reconsideration of the subject application in light of the following remarks, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and § 1.112, are respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the interview with Applicants' representative on August 16, 2007, regarding the present invention and proposed claim amendments that may place the application in condition for allowance. Further to the interview, and in order to clarify the inventive subject matter, Applicants submit the foregoing amendments to the claims, as discussed below.

**I. Amendments to the Claims**

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 28, 29, 31-33, 35-38, 56-66, and 92-97 have been amended, claims 39-55, 67-73, 75-91, and 98-109 have been canceled, and new claims 111-117 have been added.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended by deleting recitation of the phrase "not more than 10 different monomers." Corresponding amendments have also been made to claims 56 and 92.

Claim 1 has also been amended by deleting recitation of the phrase "and derivatives of said thiolated polymers."

In addition, claims 56 and 92 have been further amended to depend from claim 1.

Claims 111-117 recite specific embodiments of claim 1.

Finally, other amendments to the claims have been made to clarify the claim language and bring the claims into better conformance with U.S. patent practice. These amendments

are merely editorial in nature and are not intended to change the scope of the claims or any elements recited therein.

The amendments to the claims, including cancellation of claims, have been made without prejudice or disclaimer to any subject matter recited or canceled herein. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications directed to any canceled subject matter. No new matter has been added, and entry of the foregoing amendments of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

## **II. Response to Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph**

At pages 2-5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 28, 29, 31-33, 35-38 and 110 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as purportedly lacking enablement.

In particular, the Examiner has acknowledged that mucoadhesive polymers comprising the monomers explicitly recited in claim 1 are sufficiently enabled. However, the Examiner has further indicated that polymers comprising any monomers in addition to those recited in the claims are not enabled. It is also the Examiner's position that polymers comprising derivatives of the recited monomers are not enabled.

As noted above, Applicants have amended claim 1 by deleting recitation of "more than 10 different monomers," and by deleting recitation of derivatives of the thiolated polymers. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

## **III. Response to Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

At page 6 of the Office Action, claims 1, 28, 29, 31-33, 35-38 and 110 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as purportedly being indefinite.

Specifically, the Examiner has stated that the claims are indefinite for reciting "derivatives of thiolated polymers."

As noted above, the claims have been amended such that they no longer recite derivatives of thiolated polymers. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

**CONCLUSION**

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

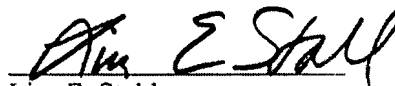
In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment and Reply, or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (703) 838-6609 so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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